

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2011

The Honorable House Majority Leader Eric Cantor
The Honorable House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Hal Rogers
The Honorable Norm Dicks
The Honorable Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
The Honorable Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Thad Cochran

Dear House and Senate Leaders,

As Congress works to create a budget for the rest of the fiscal year, we must not overlook the plight of homeless veterans. We encourage appropriators to support the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continue efforts to end homelessness among veterans by providing 10,000 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers in the Continuing Resolution.

As written, H.R. 1 would not provide additional vouchers for HUD-VASH. This program is one of the most important tools we have in eliminating homelessness among veterans in our communities. In neglecting this life saving voucher program, we are willfully overlooking a vulnerable group of individuals. Nationwide, in 2009, an estimated **136,334** people who self-identified as veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

HUD-VASH provides rental assistance for homeless veterans along with case management and clinical services in an effort to help them become self-sufficient members of their community once again. Approximately 900 homeless veterans per month are signing leases through the HUD-VASH voucher program. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over 95% of awarded vouchers are in the hands of veterans. Units not yet under lease are partially explained by the natural process of the veteran having to find suitable housing with the voucher. The following table shows just how many veterans are benefitting from this program.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Screened | 56,850 |
| Entered Case Management: | 38,085 |
| Referred to Public Housing Authority (PHA): | 33,469 |
| Vouchers Issued | 29,771 |
| Under Lease/Housed | 22,007 |

Data source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Through community outreach in our districts we have seen firsthand the benefits of the HUD-VASH voucher program. Veterans who were once on the streets now have a place to live, and a stable environment from which to get help addressing the factors that led to their homelessness. We owe it to our veterans to continue supporting this invaluable program. Please support this crucial program as you finalize FY2011 appropriations levels.



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Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



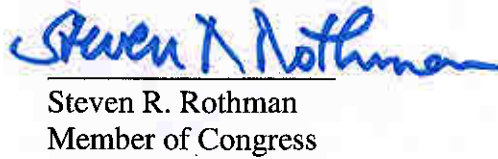
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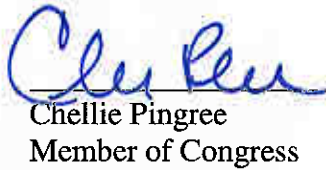
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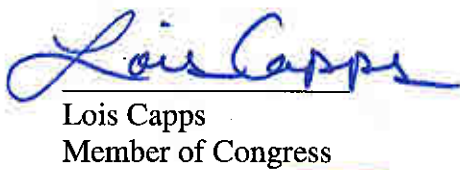

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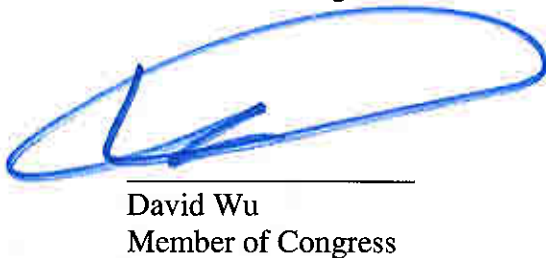

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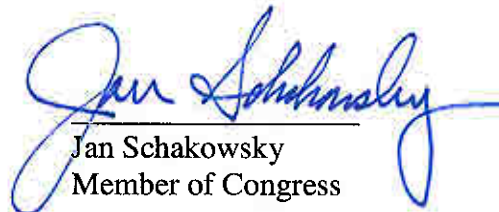

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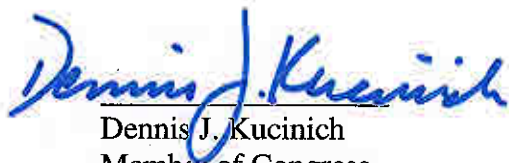

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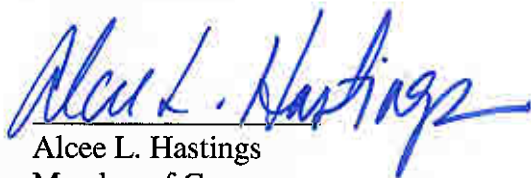
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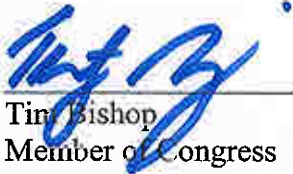
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